

Southborough March 1st
1797

To the Freeholders, Voters, and other Inhabitants of Southborough.

Gentlemen.

It is unnecessary for me to inform you of my state, you know my condition, and cannot be unacquainted with the accusations which are brought against me; under which accusations I find it inconsistent for me to hold the office I now sustain. The severest censure is no more than I deserve; for by my misconduct I have ruined myself am sunk in the utmost disgrace. If in your reproaches you give full vent to the fairest malignity; I cannot think it hard treatment or call it severe usage. Reproach me in the bitterest language, and you do not can you do me in this way any injustice; I deserve if righteously accused, the utmost. I presume not to ask your forgiveness; that is too much to be granted, a favour which I cannot expect, that you should overlook upon me again, with those eyes of tenderness and kind affection which

I have been accustomed to behold. I trust
you will so far draw the veil of charity over
my misconduct that as a man you will ex-
tend christian forgiveness, which most hum-
bly I request. As a minister I neither expect
to be forgiven nor ask to be restored. I wish
you to accept the resignation of my office, which
I now make and grant me liberty to retire
to the shade of oblivion as far as is possible.
From public life I must retire, but cannot re-
tire to enjoy happiness, for no place can be
found where shame and memory will not
accompany me. In the most desperate cir-
cumstances I shall with gratitude remember
the many favours and kindnesses, which I
have received during my residence with you,
reflecting upon those events which occurred in
the course of the few years which I have here
enjoyed; will always afford a degree of hap-
piness; but it must be attended with painful
remorse when I reflect, as unavoidably I
must, that by my misconduct I forfeited
your affection. Thus gentlemen I have
brought ruin on myself; what is almost
equally painful have caused sorrow to my
friends, and have given to my enemies
great cause of rejoicing. Tormented as I
am with many bitter reflections, and dis-

mal anxiety I wish to avoid public view,
in solitary retirement spend my days; therefore
I hope you will as soon as convenient vote
your acceptance of this my resignation, and
if possible think no more of me, who wish
to be forgotten. However it is my sincere wish
that no remembrance of me may in the least
disturb your happiness—May not your
pity be mingled with pain. ~~Let~~ All the
blessings which mortals can rationally hope
to receive flow unto you in plentifulness, and
rich abundance—As a Society may you be
built up in harmony and love, exercising all
that candour and kind charity which ever
becomes men and Christians to exercise.—
May you soon be united in the choice of one
as a minister, who shall be disposed to settle
among you who shall possess better abilities
and a more amiable temper than ever was
possessed by him, who with the most affec-
tionate sentiments, wishes to subscribe him-
self your sincere Friend and—

Humble Servant
Samuel Sumner

To the Selectmen of Southborough
To be communicated to the Town

gentlemen I am
to send as to the
their letter when
have sent it to the
the Council
of England

To the Selectmen of Southborough
To be communicated to the Town

Enclosed Letter

Copy of the Vote of the Town

Sept^r 1797

No 2

84: 1
28
9125

188-79
22-27
2-11-6

70 06
21 76 6
26: 548

87: 548
198: 12
75 56

70-62
8 34
17
33
4
30

188 881
22 88
27 27
16 012
21 112
22 27
233 33
5
76 3
76 3
31
100

15

16 012
21 112
22 27
233 33

Southborough Sept^r 11th 1797

The Town met agreeable to a warrant in due form of Law and proceeded to act as follows, Viz

1st Chose Elijah Brigham Moderator for 2^d Meeting
2nd Put to vote to see how many are willing to have Mr Summer carry provided he can be restored to the favour of the neighbouring Churches in the Association —
59 in favour 33 against

Then Voted Unanimous not to have Miss Perry unless he can have free correspondence with the Neighbouring Churches in the Association —

Voted to Chuse a Committee of five to converse with Mr Summer, Chose Deacon Fay Jonas Ball Trowbridge Taylor Ezra Taylor and John Johnson — adjourned for half an hour — The Town met agreeable to adjournment and proceeded to business —

Voted to Chuse a Mutual Council —

Voted to desire Mr Summer to preach next Sabbath
Then Voted to adjourn this Meeting to Monday y^e 18th day of this 1st September to meet at the Meeting House in S^d Town at Two O'clock afternoon —

Elijah Brigham Moderator

Sept^r 18th 1797

The Town met agreeable to adjournment and proceeded to act as follows Viz

Put to see if the Town are ready to Chuse a Council —
Tried by dividing the House and it Passd in the Negative
Voted to Request the appeared party to lay before the Town at the adjournment of this Meeting the allegations they have against Mr Summer —

Voted to Chuse a Committee on the other side of the question to bring in what they have in favour of Mr Summer — Chose Ezra Taylor Sol^m Newton Elijah Brigham John Johnson and Jonas Ball —

Voted to desire Mr Summer to preach till the adjournment of this Meeting —

Voted to adjourn this Meeting to Monday y^e 2^d day of October next at Two O'clock afternoon to meet at the Meeting House in S^d Town —

Elijah Brigham Moderator

October 4th 1797

The Town met agreeable to adjournment and proceeded to act as follows viz.

After the agreed parties were called upon to bring in what they had against Mr Summer, and refused to lay any thing before the Town. The Town then voted that the Committee chosen last Meeting to bring in what they have in favour of Mr Summer make report to the Town.

S^d Report was then read. The Vote was then put to see if the Town will accept of the report of their Committee and it passed in the Affirmative 62 in favour 13 against.

Voted to Chuse a Council out of the Marlborough Association.

Voted to send to the Church in East Sudbury for the first of the Council.

Then the two last Votes were Reconsidered.

Voted that Mr Summer be desired to supply the pulpit as usual.

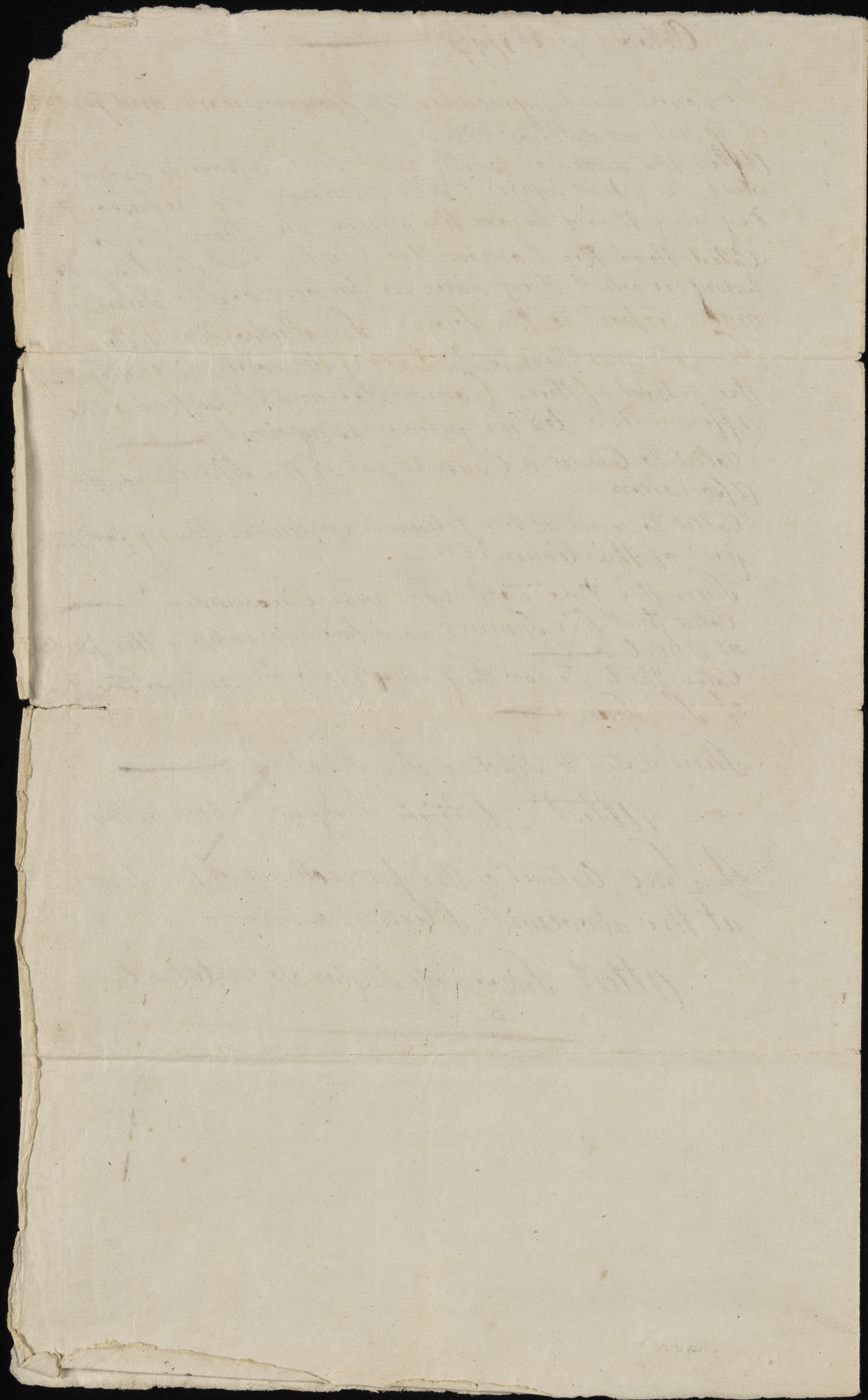
Voted that Deacon Fay notify Mr Summer of the Vote of S^d Town.

Then Voted to dissolve this Meeting.

Attest Elijah Brigham Moderator

A True Extract of the proceedings of the Town at the abovesaid Meeting.

Attest Townbridge Taylor Town Clerk



Southborough December 11th 1797

Rec^d of Ezra Taylor Treasurer for said
town One Dollar in full for my Salary
from the first day of June last to the first
day of December, it being the time I was
regularly deserv^d from the work of the min-
istry in said town.

Y^{rs}

Samuel Sumner

M^{rs} Sumner,
Pres^t in full
S

Southborough Decm^r 11th 1797

Rec^d. of Ezra Taylor Treasurer for Said
Town, One Hundred & Eleven Dollars &
Six Cents, in full for what remain^d due
to me from Said town for my Salary
for the year 1796 ending June first 1797.

D 111-6

W^m Samuel Sumner

M^{rs} Sumners

Pres^t
in full

N^o 1 -

Sl. L. 7

Southborough Febr, 7th 1798

To Ezra Taylor Town Treasurer or Successor in S. D. Office
So please to pay to Samuel Sumner or order Ten Dollars
it being in part for teaching a school in the west
district in S. D. Town and this order shall be your discharge
for that sum

\$ 10: 0

Trowbridge Taylor
Elijah Brigham
Phineas Bemis

Selectmen of
Southborough

Order order
No. 2

Sam^l Sumner
order

No 4-

Settled

Samuel Sumner

Febru 7 28th 1797

Then Recd. of Ezra Taylor Treasurer for the
town of Southborough one hundred Dollars
in part of my Salary the present year ending
June first 1797

D 100

J. P.

Samuel Sumner

M. Sumner
Rup^t

D 100 —

N^o 38

Settle

Southborough March 26th 1798.

To M^r Ezra Taylor Treasurer or his Successor
in T. office S^r Please to pay Erasmus Ward
or order ten Dollars and his order shall be your
Discharge for that Sum it being Part of an order
Given to Samuel Sumner.

D C
10 - - 0

Elijah Brigham } Selectmen of
Timothy Fellows }
Love Bridges Taylor } Southborough

Erasmus Ward

Erasmus Ward's
order

N^o 7 -

Settled

Ward's order

Southborough March 26th 1798

To Ebenezer Taylor Town Treasurer or Successor in
S. D office to please to pay to Sam^l Sumner
or order Ten Dollars it being part of an
order given S^d Sumner for teaching a school
at the west Squadron in S. D Town and
this order shall be your discharge for that
sum

Elijah Brigham } Selectmen
Timothy Beflows }
Ebenezer Taylor } of
Southbr^y

\$ 10 : 0

Sam^l. Sumner

order

N^o 5

Settled

Samuel Sumner

Samuel Sumner

To the Select Men of the Town of Southboro:
Gentlemen we the Subscribers Inhabitants
of S^d Town Desire that you would
Call a Town Meeting as soon as you can
conveniently and Insert an Article in S^d
Warrant to see whether the Town will
Continue our Rev^d Pastor Samuel Sumner
in his office or grant him his Request made
in March last Past: or Pass any Vote Relative
to the Gospel Ministry in S^d Town
as your servants in Duty Bound shall ever pray
Southboro: Novem^r 10th 1797

Jon^a. Perce
Jon^a. Comyns
Nathan Bridges
William Buckston
Samuel Hudson
Charles Angier
Reuben Fay
Will^m. Onthank
Mark Collins Jr.
John Prentice
John Collins
Seth Newton
Josiah Newton

Petition of the Inhabitants
of Southboro' for a Town
Meeting

Southborough March ye 20th 1797

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Southborough
legally Assembled, The Town proceeded to act on the second
article of the Warrant which was to hear a Letter from
the Reverend Sam^l Sumner and if the Town think best grant
his Request therein; which was that he might be dispossessed
from the office of a Gospel Minister in S. Town &

Resolved to concur with the C. R. R. in desiring
the Reverend Sam^l Sumner to carry agreeable
to their Vote, which was as follows &
Voted that the Rev. Mr Sumner be desired still
to officiate as the Minister of Southborough in all
cases as though no uneasiness had arisen. Untill
the Second Monday in September next when to
hear the Voice of the C. R. R. and Town Reta-
-tion to his further Continuance in S. Office
To which Second Monday in September the further
Consideration of this important question is referred by
this Vote &

A True Copy as of Record

May ye 31st 1798

Townbridge Taylor Town Clerk

Copy of the Vote
of the Town March 1797

No 1

Southborough March ye 20th 1799 -

At a Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Southboro legally
Assembled, The Town proceeded to act on the second article
of the Warrant which was to hear a letter from the
Reverend Sam^l Sumner and if the Town think best grant
his Request therein; which was that he might be dismissed
from the office of a Gospel Minister in Said Town -

2d un^{el} Voted to Concur with the C. h. h, in desiring the

Reverend Sam^l Sumner to tarry agreeable to their Vote,
which was as follows —

Voted that the Rev^d, Mr. Sumner be desired Still to
officiate as the Minister of Southborough in all Cases as
though no uneasiness had arisen, Until the Second
Monday in September next then to hear the Voice of the
C. h. h, and Town to his further Continuance in

Sd. office To which Second Monday in September the
further Consideration of this important question is refer'd
by this Vote —

A True Copy as of Record —

May ye 31st 1798

Trowbridge Taylor Town Clerk.

Southborough December ye 1st 1797
At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Southbr.
Legally assembled

2^d art^l The Vote was put to see whether the Town wish to con-
-tinue Mr Sumner in the Office of a Gospel Minister and
it passed in the Negative

Then Voted to choose a Committee of five to confer with
Mr Sumner chose Abner Parker Town, Taylor Jun^r, Devere
Edmond Chamberlain Mark Collins &c

Then Voted to adjourn till four O'clock

The Town Met at the time of adjournment and the Com-
-mittee Returned and made Report that had come to no ag-
-reement with Mr Sumner, Then Voted to grant Mr Sumners
Request made in March last which was that he might be dis-
-missed from the Office of a Gospel Minister in S. D. Town

Then Voted to leave the Matter with the Selectmen to set-
-tle with Mr Sumner and pass Receipts

They Voted to adjourn to the 18th day of December

The Selectmen agreeable to the Vote of S. D. Town attended
on the business of a Settlement with Mr Sam^l Sumner
on the 11th day of the same month and agreed on a Settle-
-ment and Received his Receipt which was as follows

Southborough December ye 11th 1798

P. D. of Ezra Taylor Treasurer for S. D. Town One
Dollar in full for my Salary from the first
day of June last to the first day of December
it being the time I was Regularly dismissed from
the work of of the Ministry in S. D. Town

To Samuel Sumner

December ye 18th 1797
The Town Met agreeable to adjournment and proceeded to business
The Selectmen Reported that they had settled with Mr Summer
and that he had Preassigned one quarter part of the ~~Salary~~
Settlement given him by the Town and that he had given
his Receipt for his Salary up to the time of his dismission
Voted to accept of the report of the Selectmen Respecting
the Settlement with Mr Summer

Voted to dissolve this Meeting
Attest Elijah Partridge Moderator

A True Copy as of Record
Attest Trowsbridge Taylor Town Clerk

Copy of the Act
of the Town

Dec^r 1797

No 3